AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a server federation that includes a plurality of servers that communicate with a plurality of client devices, a method for fulfilling a request comprising the following:

a first server of the plurality of servers receiving a network request for a service across a transport-independent messaging infrastructure, the network request structured in accordance with a schema accessible to the plurality of servers and the plurality of client devices, the meaning of the network request being implied by the schema;

the first server recognizing the meaning of the network request implied by the schema;

the first server determining that it can access some of the information needed in order to respond to the network request without having to contact other servers based on the recognized meaning of the network request;

the first server determining that further information is needed from at least a second server in order to respond to the network request ~~for the service~~ based on the recognized meaning of the network request;

the first server structuring a further network request for the further information in response to determining that the further information is needed, the further network request structured in accordance with ~~utilizing a schema recognized by both the first server and the second server, wherein the meaning of the request for further information is implied by the~~ a second schema;

the first server dispatching the further network request ~~for the further information~~ to the second server using the ~~a~~ transport-independent messaging infrastructure;

the first server receiving a network response from the second server across the transport-independent messaging infrastructure, the network response including the further information and the network response being structured in accordance with the second schema; and

the first server using the further information to respond to the network request for the service.

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server structuring a further network request for further information comprises the following:

the first server structuring the further network request in accordance with an eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server receiving a network response from the second server comprises the following:

the first server receiving the network response from the second server in the form of a data structure structured in accordance with an eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server dispatching the further network request for the further information to the second server using a transport-independent messaging infrastructure comprises the following:

the first server dispatching the further network request for the further information using a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

5. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the first server structuring a further network request for the further information comprises the following:

the first server structuring the further network request in accordance with an eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

6. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server receiving a network response from the second server comprises the following:

the first server receiving the network response from the second server using a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

7. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 6, wherein the first server receiving a network response from the second server further comprises the following:

the first server receiving the network response from the second server in the form of a data structure structured in accordance with an eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

8. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server dispatching the further network request for the further information to the second server using a transport-independent messaging infrastructure comprises the following:

a messaging component communicating with a common Application Program Interface that supports a plurality of transports, the Application Program Interface providing common semantics to messaging components at servers in the server federation and to messaging applications at clients in the plurality of clients regardless of the underlying transport associated with a network message.

9. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the first server dispatching the further network request for the further information to the second server using a transport-independent messaging infrastructure comprises the following:

the common Application Program Interface communicating with an appropriate one of the plurality of transports in response to the messaging component communicating with the common Application Program Interface.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the common Application Program Interface communicating with an appropriate one of the plurality of transports comprises the following:

the common Application Program Interface communicating with a HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP) transport.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the common Application Program Interface communicating with an appropriate one of the plurality of transports comprises the following:

the common Application Program Interface communicating with an MSMQ binary transport.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the common Application Program Interface communicating with an appropriate one of the plurality of transports comprises the following:

the common Application Program Interface communicating with a multicast transport.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the common Application Program Interface communicating with an appropriate one of the plurality of transports comprises the following:

the common Application Program Interface communicating with an SMTP transport.

14. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server ~~of the plurality of servers~~ receiving a network request for service comprises the following:

the first server ~~of the plurality of servers~~ receiving the network request for service from a third server in the server federation.

15. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first server of the plurality of servers receiving a network request for service comprises the following:

the first server ~~of the plurality of servers~~ receiving the network request for service from a client of the plurality of clients.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a first server of a server federation, the server federation including a plurality of servers that communicate with a plurality of client devices, the computer program product including a computer-readable medium having stored thereon the following:

computer-executable instructions for detecting the receipt of a network request for a service across a transport-independent messaging infrastructure, the network request structured in accordance with a schema accessible to the plurality of servers and the plurality of client devices, the meaning of the network request being implied by the schema;

computer-executable instructions for recognizing the meaning of the network request implied by the schema;

computer-executable instructions for determining that the first server can access some of the information needed in order to respond to the network request without having to contact other servers based on the recognized meaning of the network request;

computer-executable instructions for determining that further information is needed from at least a second server in order to respond to the network request ~~for the service~~ based on the recognized meaning of the network request;

computer-executable instructions for structuring a further network request for the further information in response to determining that the further information is needed, the further network request structured in accordance with ~~utilizing a schema recognized by both the first server and the second server, wherein the meaning of the request for further information is implied by the~~ a second schema;

computer-executable instructions for causing the further network request ~~for the further information~~ to be dispatched to the second server using ~~a~~ the transport-independent messaging infrastructure;

computer-executable instructions for detecting the receipt of a network response from the second server across the transport-independent messaging infrastructure, the network response including the further information and the network response being structured in accordance with the second schema; and

computer-executable instructions for using the further information to respond to the network request for the service.

17. (Original) A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the computer-readable medium is a physical storage medium.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for structuring a further network request for the further information utilizing a second schema ~~recognized by both the first server and the second server~~ comprise the following:

computer-executable instructions for structuring the request in accordance with an eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for causing the further network request for the further information to be dispatched to the second server using a transport-independent messaging infrastructure comprise the following:

computer-executable instructions for communicating with a common Application Program Interface that supports a plurality of transports.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the computer-executable instructions for causing the further network request for the further information to be dispatched to the second server using a transport-independent messaging infrastructure further comprise the following:

computer-executable instructions for implementing the common Application Program Interface such that the common Application Program Interface communicates with an

appropriate one of the plurality of transports in response to the execution of the computer-executable instructions for communicating with the common Application Program Interface.

Claims 21 – 42 (Withdrawn).

43. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a first server of the plurality of servers receiving a network request structured in accordance with a schema comprises the first server receiving a network request structured in accordance with a schema stored in schema store, the schema store accessible to servers in the server federation and clients in the one or more clients, the schema store providing standardized schema services to servers and clients to facilitate meaningful communication and information exchange across the servers and clients.

44. (New) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the standardized schema services include storing, finding, querying, publishing, and sharing schema information.

45. (New) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the schema store is distributed throughout servers in the server federation.

46. (New) The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the schema store stores core schemas defining data formats for a subset of common data items used by a plurality of different applications residing at servers in the server federation.

47. (New) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein a messaging component communicating with a common Application Program Interface that supports a plurality of transports comprises an act of a messaging component communicating with a common Application Program Interface that provides one or more services for transports that do not inherently implement the one or more services so as to increase the compatibility of transports that do not support the one or more services with transports that do support the one or more services.

48. (New) The method as recited in claim 1,wherein the first server determining that further information is needed from at least a second server in order to respond to the network request comprises the first server determining that is has some but not all of the information that is needed in order to respond to the network request.

49. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the schema and the second schema are the same schema.